

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 04424 200158Z

63

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 EB-07 NEA-10 /024 W

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R 200137Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO AMEMBASSY SANA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 781

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SEOUL 4424

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN (MARK LAVERNE ERICKSON)

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION, MARK LAVERNE ERICKSON

REF: SANA 1515 (NOTAL)

1. FIRM REFERRED TO IN REFTEL SEEMS TO BE IL HWA PHARMACEUTICAL CO., LTD., ESTABLISHED JANUARY 1974 AND APPARENTLY CONNECTED WITH REV. SUN-MYUNG MOON'S UNIFICATION CHURCH. PRESIDENT WON-PIL KIM REPORTS THAT FIRM SELLS GINSENG TEA TO 46 COUNTRIES, INCLUDING DUBAI AND UNITED ARAB EMIRATES. 1974 EXPORTS TOTALED \$7.2 MILLION OF GINSENG PRODUCTS. NO SALES HISTORY IN YEMEN, BUT FIRM SENT SAMPLE TO POTENTIAL CUSTOMER THERE TODAY, JUNE 19, INDEPENDENTLY OF THIS INQUIRY.

2. PRESIDENT KIM DISCLAIMS KNOWLEDGE OF MARK LAVERNE ERICKSON. HE STATES FURTHER THAT FIRM IS NOT ACTUALLY OWNED BY UNIFICATION CHURCH, BUT THAT MOST EMPLOYEES ARE ACTIVE CHURCH MEMBERS.

3. GINSENG TEA IS MADE FROM THE ROOT OF GINSENG PLNANT, AND IS POPULARLY BELIEVED IN KOREA TO HAVE BENEFICIAL EFFECTS UPON HEALTH AND STAMINA.

4. WE ARE UNABLE TO FIND ANY FIRM WITH NAME IL (OR ILL) WONG PHARMACEUTICAL CO. JIN SENGH TEA CO. IS AN UNLIKELY NAME SINCE GINSENG IS A GENERIC TERM.

5. DECONTROL JUNE 30, 1976.

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Message Attributes

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